

# Storm batters the beach

## Tree falls on transformer; plover habitat destroyed

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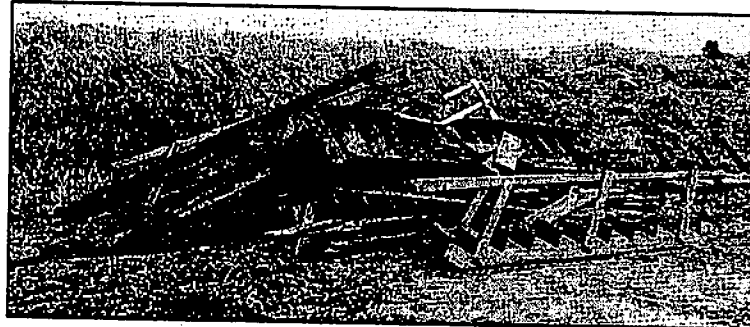
Duxbury residents endured a multi-day storm over the weekend which caused damage both on and off land.

Duxbury beach seemed to suffer the most damage from the storm. High winds, an usually high tide, and heavy seas combined to cause erosion on both the ocean and bay side of the beach, according to Harbormaster Don Beers.

Strong seas and wind destroyed a set of stairs at a home on Gurnet Road. The stairs came off the seawall and on to the Duxbury Beach Reservation's property. The Reservation hired a contractor to collect the stairs that were on their property, and pile them in Blakeman's. There were 12 stairs in total, some of which were in perfect shape, Beers said.

"The Reservation was being a superior neighbor," he said.

A sustained wind of up to 40 knots combined with a high tide of up to 13 ft has made animal life on the beach



Strong winds and high tides swept away several sets of stairs from homes along Gurnet Road and onto the beach, where they were piled up by the Beach Reservation in the Blakeman's parking lot.

a little harder. Many of the Piping Plover's nests have been destroyed, and fencing to protect their habitats have also been destroyed, Endangered Species Officer Michael Pforr said.

"There's nothing you can do to protect the nests from tidal conditions," Pforr said. "If you try to set anything up, they won't nest there."

The fencing to protect the birds nesting areas will be replaced as soon as possible, he said.

Inside the harbor, there were incidents of boats dragging their moorings, causing them to collide with other

boats. One sailboat broke its mooring and had to be removed from Saquish on Monday night, according to the Harbormaster.

"It's an emergency situation (when boats drag their mooring)," Beers said. "We have to go and literary move the boats apart."

Beers was also weary of people using their boats during bad weather.

"People don't necessarily stop using their boats. (They) go out in storms and don't have experience," Beers said. "It is a matter of public safety." Inexperience boaters are encouraged to stay on dry land until the bad weather has passed.

"I think we made out pretty lucky," Beers said. "We're open for business and looking forward to the weekend."

On land, there were several incidents involving trees being blown over during the storm, according to the Duxbury Police Department. There was one transformer that blew (as a result of a tree falling on it). NStar repaired the transformer on Monday.



This tree struck a live power line Monday afternoon, sparking a small fire and forcing local authorities to call Nstar to deal with the fallen limb.